

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

STR-08 AGR-20 FEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-08

L-03 OMB-01 /077 W

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R 120830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9922

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 1917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJ: EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVTS

REF: A. TOKYO 16469

B. TKOYO 847

C. TOKYO 1822

D. STATE 22871

1. JAPAN HAS THREE BASIC LAWS OR ORDINANCES UNDER WHICH IT MAY
ACT TO LIMIT EXPORTS:

A) EXPORT TRADE CONTROL ORDINANCE;

B) EXPORT-IMPORT TRANSACTIONS LAW;

C) EXPORT PROMOTION LAW FOR THE FISHERY INDUSTRY. NONE OF
THESE LAWS OR ORDINANCES HAS BEEN MODIFIED IN ANY WAY SINCE
JANUARY 1973.

2. JAPAN HAS NO TAXES ON EXPORTS.

3. SINCE JANUARY 1973 JAPAN HAS ONLY TAKEN ONE UNILATERAL ACT-
ION TO LIMIT EXPORT OF AN INDUSTRIAL COMMODITY. IN NOVEMBER 1973
GOJ BANNED ALL EXPORT OF POL PRODUCTS. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT
CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO IN NOVEMBER OR AFTER WOULD NOT RECEIVE
AN EXPORT LICENSE. PRIOR CONTRACTS WOULD BE HONORED AND AN EX-
PORT LICENSE GRANTED (REF C). JAPAN HAS TAKEN OTHER ACTIONS TO
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LIMIT EXPORTS IN THE PERIOD IN QUESTION, BUT THESE HAVE NOT RE-

LATED TO RAW MATERIALS AND ALL HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WISHING TO LIMIT JAPANESE MARKET PENETRATION (REF A).

4. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESSURE IN JAPAN FOR DIRECT CONTROLS TO LIMIT EXPORTS. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN PUBLIC PRESSURE ON GOJ TO CONTAIN INFLATION BY ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET. GOJ RESPONSE TO THIS HAS BEEN TO REQUEST FIRMS TO MAINTAIN NORMAL SUPPLIES TO DOMESTIC MARKET AND NOT TO DIVERT MORE THAN NORMAL AMOUNTS TO EXPORT (REF C).

EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT GOJ WILL MOVE TO LIMIT EXPORTS IN OTHER THAN POL PRODUCTS. EMBASSY ALSO, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC PRESSURE WILL DEVELOP ON ANY SECTOR WHICH WOULD MAKE ACTION BY GOJ TO LIMIT EXPORTS UNAVOIDABLE.

5. ONLY SIGNIFICANT BARTER DEAL BY JAPANESE COMPANIES KNOWN TO EMBASSY AT THIS TIME WAS REPORTED IN TOKYO 1273. IN SHORT, SUMITOMO ANNOUNCED THAT IT, TOGETHER WITH MITSUI TOATSU CHEMICAL COMPANY, HAD CONCLUDED BARTER AGREEMENT WITH QUOTE MAJOR WESTERN CHEMICAL COMPANIES END QUOTE. DEAL REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER AND SYNTHETIC RESIN FROM JAPAN IN RETURN FOR INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND DYESTUFFS. INITIAL ESTIMATE WAS THAT THIS TRADE WOULD TOTAL AROUND \$100MILLION BOTH WAYS DURING 1974.
SHOESMITH

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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